

USPHS PHARMPAC HONOR AWARDS
presented at
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE
MAY 2004, Anchorage, Alaska

**U.S.PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AWARD FOR MANAGERIAL
EXCELLENCE IMPROVING PHARMACY SERVICE OR PUBLIC
HEALTH**

This award is sponsored annually by the George F. Archambault Foundation, through the generous financial support of the Bayer Corporation, to recognize a U.S. Public Health Service pharmacist who has improved pharmacy service or the public's health through managerial excellence.

LCDR ANDREW K. MEAGHER

For his determination in improvising and implementing solutions to complex public health issues within the correctional setting the 2004 Managerial Excellence Improving Pharmacy Service or Public Health is presented to LCDR Andrew K. Meagher.

As the Chief Pharmacist at the Federal Correctional Institution Englewood, CO, LCDR Meagher has become intimately involved in issues related to transitional care for inmates infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) releasing from the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) custody and developing a care plan for detainees requiring detoxification from chemical substances for the period of OCT 2002 to MAR 2004.

On the receiving end of corrections, LCDR Meagher recognized the inadequacies of the local institution policy in addressing the individual needs of inmates requiring detoxification and the ramifications of a pending change in legal requirements for methadone use. On the discharge end, LCDR Meagher recognized the gap in healthcare that inmates with HIV endure upon their release from the correctional setting and the implications this has for these individuals and for the nation's public health. The need for near perfect compliance (>95%) with HIV medications in preventing treatment failures demonstrates the extreme importance of obtaining immediate follow-up care to prevent lapses in therapy. This underserved group has historically been overlooked and only recently have the implications of lapses in care been examined.

With these two substantial issues identified, LCDR Meagher began evaluating these problems and possible solutions with the following outcomes:

Transitional care for HIV infected inmates

- Participated in a local 3 day HIV training course.

- Became aware of and educated on the federally funded Aids Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) administered by every state and the District of Columbia.
- Recognized the fact that federal inmates were the ideal candidates for enrollment in ADAPs as they generally meet all the necessary requirements.
- Recognized that enrollment of releasing inmates was possible while still incarcerated and that this ADAP served as gateways for additional support services such as housing, counseling, and access to infectious disease clinics at a nominal fee or no cost to the parolee.
- Realized substantial costs savings for the BOP by providing post-incarceration healthcare with a subsequent decrease in the transitional release medication requirements. The average savings per parolee has been \$420 based on an average of a 15 day supply of medications dispensed instead of the standard 30 day supply.

Medical management of inmates with chemical substance abuse

- Integrated the BOP Guidelines for Detoxification of Chemical Substances into a manageable local policy that has streamlined yet individualized the medical management of opiates, barbiturates, alcohol, and benzodiazepines.
- Reviewed the efficacy and usability of the local policy after a 12 month implementation period and incorporated refinements and flow sheets based on outcomes.
- Vastly improved the quality and individuality of care received by inmates by eliminating a regimented detoxification process.
- Saved the local institution over \$8000 by eliminating the need to reapply for a special methadone treatment license.

The programs that LCDR Meagher has implemented at the local institution level have been recognized nationally and have served as models for other institutions coping with the same issues. This importance towards fulfilling the healthcare mission of the BOP has been recognized by the national leaders within the BOP. LCDR Meagher was asked and accepted the task of preparing a presentation at the national BOP Pharmacy Conference in September 2003 over these topics in order to disseminate this valuable information throughout the BOP. His presentation addressed these issues and demonstrated that there are simple solutions to complex problems.

LCDR Meagher has utilized creative thinking and determination in developing solutions to further the mission of the Bureau of Prisons Health Services Division and the United States Public Health Service in providing the appropriate care in a cost efficient manner. His efforts exemplify the George F. Archambault Foundation's Award for Managerial Excellence Improving Pharmacy Service or Public Health.